# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

YASMIN VAN	) Case No
Plaintiff,	)
VS.	) COMPLAINT
PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC	) ) ) Jury Trial Demanded
Defendant.	) ) )

PLAINTIFF, YASMIN VAN ("Plaintiff"), by and through the undersigned attorney, files this Complaint against DEFENDANT, PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC ("Defendant"), and alleges as follows:

## I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer for Defendant's violations of the following provisions, resulting from abusive behavior against Plaintiff in the course of Defendant's attempt to collect a debt:
  - (1) The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA").

## II. JURISDICTION

2. The FDCPA claim arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), and therefore involves a "federal question" pursuant to 28 USC § 1331.

## III. PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, YASMIN VAN ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in Broome County, New York.
- 4. Defendant, PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC, ("Defendant") is a corporation engaged in the business of collecting debts by use of the mails and telephone, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.

#### IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 7. All activities of Defendant set out herein were undertaken in connection with the collection of a "debt," as defined by 15 USC § 1692a(5).
- 8. Within the last year, Defendant contacted Plaintiff by telephone in an attempt to collect an alleged outstanding debt. During that telephone conversation, Defendant performed the following acts, which amount to violations under various federal and state laws:
  - (1) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that cannot be legally taken or that was not actually intended to be taken, including threatening to report the alleged debt as unpaid to Plaintiff's credit report (§ 1692e(5));
  - (2) Falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of Plaintiff's debt, including stating false balance for the debt (§ 1692e(2)(A)).

- 9. As a result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer injuries to Plaintiff's feelings, personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and severe emotional distress.
- 10. Defendant intended to cause, by means of the actions detailed above, injuries to Plaintiff's feelings, personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and severe emotional distress.
- 11. Defendant's action, detailed above, was undertaken with extraordinary disregard of, or indifference to, known or highly probable risks to purported debtors.
- 12. Defendant's actions, detailed above, constituted an extraordinary transgression of the bounds of socially tolerable conduct
- 13. To the extent Defendant's actions, detailed above, were carried out by an employee of Defendant, that employee was acting within the scope of his or her employment.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages pursuant to 15 USC 1692k;
- C. Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k;
- D. Costs, disbursements and reasonable attorney's fees for all successful claims, and any unsuccessful claims arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as the successful claims, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k; and,

E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

This <u>29</u>day of July, 2009.

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF YASMIN VAN

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis R. Kurz NY Bar No. 4570453 Kurz & Fortas, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 80 Broad Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10004 (404) 856-3888 (404) 856-3892 (fax) dkurz@kurzandfortas.com

## PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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